

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2025

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Vice President Sidhu called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the boardroom.

Present: Members Ahmed, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Absent: Members Christenson and Kehoe

Administrators: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Assistant Superintendent of Student & Family Engagement
Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Jill Minnick, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Jen Curry, Chief Academic Officer

Others Present: Diane Robertson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board
Josh Patterson, SVA Student Co-Chair

Josh Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Adoption of the Agenda/Approval of the Consent Agenda

Action Item #26-09-09: It was moved by Member Westra and seconded by Member Vos to Adopt the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of New Hires, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Regular Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2025, Out-of-Country Field Trips, First Reading Policies, and a Tentative Agreement with the Internal Union of Operating Engineers (Security Personnel).

Ayes: Members Ahmed, Picard, Sidhu, Vos, and Westra

Nays: None

The motion was carried 5-0

New Hires

Blanchette, Amanda	Counselor (Instructional) West Middle School	Effective 9-3-25
Bule, Christina	Occupational Therapy Farrand/Tonda Elementary Schools	Effective 8-7-25
Cunningham, Samantha	(0.7) Occupational Therapy Eriksson/Field Elementary Schools	Effective 9-3-25
Cusick, Maria Fernanda	Spanish/Elective 21 st Century Skills-Project B Pioneer Middle School	Effective 9-8-25
Flavin, Kristine	(0.5) Physical Education Tonda/Smith Elementary Schools	Effective 8-25-25
Ingesouliau, Alexander	MLL Teacher Salem High School	Effective 9-2-25
Larson, Brooke	Pre-K (GSRP) Hoben Elementary School	Effective 8-28-25
Miesmer, Morgan	Social Studies Pioneer Middle School	Effective 8-25-25
Peterson, Genovia	Counselor (Non-Instructional) Plymouth High School	Effective 9-8-25
Schreuder, Caitlin	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Effective 9-4-25

Seagrave, Matthew	Resource Room Hulsing Elementary School	Effective 9-9-25
Smith, Christine	(0.5) Resource Room Farrand/Field Elementary Schools	Effective 9-2-25
Nicastri, Julie	Assistant Principal Liberty Middle School	Effective 8-28-25

Leaves

Bowler, Sheri	Elementary Classroom Bentley Elementary School	Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 6-11-26
Kimball, Thomas	Digital/Multimedia-Photoshop Plymouth High School	Leave of Absence Effective 8-25-25 to 6-11-26
Thompson, Kara	Student Support Coordinator Field Elementary School	Childcare Leave of Absence Effective 8-18-25 to 11-7-25

Resignations

Beaufait, Susan	Literacy Coach K-3 Educational Support Center	Resignation Effective 9-26-25
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Retirements

Durham, Alissa	Elementary Classroom Smith Elementary School	Retirement Effective 6-30-25
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Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2025, were approved as presented.

Out of Country Field Trips

Spain and Portugal – Salem High School – 10-12th grade

First Reading Policies

- Policy #2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning

Action Items

Consider Approval of Resolution for a Tentative Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers (Security Personnel) (First and Final Reading)

B. Celebrating Success

Member Vos presented the *Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award* to the district's outstanding Summer School leaders for their exceptional dedication and hard work, which provided P-CCS students with opportunities to strengthen their skills, stay engaged, and prepare for success in the upcoming year. Those honored included Derek Southwick, Lauren Cummings, and Steven Beaulieu, who led summer learning for high school students; Ashley Voitus and Casen Sharp, who served as coordinators for the elementary and middle school summer academies; Jenifer Camilleri, who coordinated the Special Education Extended School Year program; and Denyaz Farhat, who led the Summer Learning programs for English Language learners.

C. Board Committee Reports/ActionPresident's Report – Lauren Christenson

Vice President Sidhu shared the President's Report, extending a warm welcome to staff, students, and families as the new school year begins. She expressed hopes for a successful year marked by growth and meaningful connections. She also shared that the Board will hold a workshop at the end of this evening's meeting to review Board goals for the 2025–2026 school year.

Student Performance and Achievement Committee (SPA) – Judy Westra

Member Westra shared that the SPA Committee met on September 3, 2025, and reviewed the Early Middle College Presentation and orientation materials for new and returning committee members for the new school year. The

next SPA Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Policy Advisory Committee (F&O) – Anupam Sidhu

Member Sidhu shared that the policy committee has not met since the last board meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.

Finance and Operations Committee - Patrick Kehoe

Jill Minnick shared that the Finance & Operations Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Student Voice in Action Committee (SVA) - Lauren Christenson

Josh Patterson, SVA Co-Chair, shared that the SVA Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School, and everyone is welcome to attend.

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Merritt welcomed students, staff, and families to the new school year and shared how encouraging it was to see many families attending open houses and parent night events across the district to meet staff and learn more about the year ahead.

She reminded families who have not yet completed the required Back to School Check-In to do so by September 29 through the MISTAR Parent Connection website. This important process updates medical, contact, and demographic information and generates each student's emergency card.

In closing, Superintendent Merritt invited parents to attend the upcoming Parent Council meeting on September 25. The meeting will feature presentations from Chief Academic Officer Jennifer Curry and Executive Director of High School Education Joseph Green, and will provide parents with an opportunity to connect with district leaders and stay informed about what's happening across P-CCS.

E. Citizens' Comments

- Sarah Krzyzanski and Mary Miller spoke in support of immigrant students
- Carol Weissner, Sheri Bowler, and Michelle West spoke on the climate at Bentley Elementary School
- Rachel Hayes and Laurie Mayers spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students and anti-bullying training
- Crystal Clark spoke about a student elopement
- Meta Mendel-Reyes spoke about providing a sense of belonging for all students
- Ian Gonzalez spoke on education for safe gun storage

F. Administrative Reports

Student Services – Kurt Tyszkiewicz

Early Middle College Updates (Goals A and B) (Presentation)

Amanda Pelukas, Early Middle College Coordinator, presented an update on the P-CCS Early Middle College program, a five-year pathway that allows students to earn both a high school diploma and up to 60 college credits, an associate degree, or a professional certification. She highlighted the program's advantages, including cost savings, intentional academic and career support, and increased student success rates compared to peers. Students can choose from 13 majors through partnerships with Schoolcraft and Washtenaw Community Colleges while still participating fully in P-CEP activities and athletics. The program currently serves 27 students across multiple areas of study, with the first EMC graduate expected in June 2026.

G. Remaining Citizens' Comments

- Heather Gatny spoke in support of LGBTQ+ students and anti-bullying training
- Michelle Moustakas spoke in support of LGBTQ+ and immigrant students
- Christopher Vos spoke about having the marching band present at athletic events.
- Sebastian Ostertag and Rachel Moove spoke in support of revisions to Policy #2414

- Csilla Gutay spoke on human trafficking awareness
- Carol Poenisch spoke on State of Michigan e-bus grants

H. Discussion

- The Board discussed selecting voting delegates for the MASB Delegate Assembly at the annual October conference and asked members to email Lauren Christenson if interested in serving in this capacity.

I. Follow-up Board Questions

- No agenda item follow-up questions (Vice President Sidhu reminded Board Members to email non-agenda questions to Superintendent Merritt and President Christenson)

J. Recess – Transition to Board Workshop

Vice President Sidhu called for a recess at 8:39 p.m. to transition into a Board workshop. The meeting was reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

Special Meeting - Workshop Board Goals

The Board of Education and Superintendent Merritt met in a workshop to review and discuss Board Goals for the 2025-2026 school year.

K. Adjournment

Vice President Sidhu adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Judy Westra
Secretary, Board of Education

*Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on 9-23-25/dr